

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

**AL-AMEEN I. MAZAHREH, BILLY  
NUNES DE ALMEIDA, BRIAN  
SWENSON, NATIONAL RIFLE  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA,  
INC. ASSOCIATION OF NEW  
JERSEY RIFLE & PISTOL CLUBS,  
INC., and COALITION OF NEW  
JERSEY FIREARM OWNERS A  
NEW JERSEY NONPROFIT  
CORPORATION,**

**Plaintiffs,**

**v.**

**MATTHEW J. PLATKIN, in his  
official capacity as Acting Attorney  
General of New Jersey,**

**PATRICK J. CALLAHAN, in his  
official capacity as Superintendent of  
the New Jersey State Police,**

**ARTHUR E. WATERMAN, in his  
official capacity as Chief of the  
Medford Township Police  
Department,**

**MARK P. TARANTINO, in his  
official capacity as permitting Judge  
of the Superior Court of New Jersey,  
Law Division, Burlington County,**

**THOMAS BRYAN, in his official  
capacity as Chief of Edison Township  
Police Department,**

**JOSEPH L. REA, in his official  
capacity as permitting Judge of the**

**CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:20-cv-17598**

**CONSENT ORDER FOR AWARD  
OF REASONABLE COUNSEL  
FEES AND COSTS PURSUANT  
TO 42 U.S.C. § 1988**

**Superior Court of New Jersey, Law  
Division, Middlesex County,**

**ROBERT BRENNAN, in his official  
capacity as Chief of the Hopatcong  
Township Police Department,**

**N. PETER CONFORTI, in his official  
capacity as permitting Judge of the  
Superior Court of New Jersey, Law  
Division, Sussex County,**

**Defendants.**

**THIS MATTER**, having been brought before the Court by Plaintiffs Al-Ameen I. Mazahreh; Billy Nunes De Almeida; Brian Swenson; National Rifle Association of America, Inc.; Association of New Jersey Rifle & Pistol Clubs, Inc.; and Coalition of New Jersey Firearms Owners A New Jersey Profit Corporation (“Plaintiffs”), through their counsel Hartman & Winnicki, P.C. for an award of reasonable counsel fees and costs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988; and Defendants Matthew J. Platkin, Patrick J. Callahan, Mark P. Tarantino, Joseph L. Rea, and N. Peter Conforti, sued in their official capacities only, being represented by Matthew J. Platkin, Attorney General of New Jersey, Daniel M. Vannella, Assistant Attorney General, appearing; and Defendant Arthur E. Waterman in his official capacity as Chief of Police of the Township of Medford being represented by Parker McCay P.A.; and Defendant Thomas Bryan in his official capacity as Chief of Police of the Township of Edison, being represented by Rainone Coughlin Minchello, LLC; and

Defendant Robert Brennan in his official capacity as Chief of Police of the Borough of Hopatcong being represented by Schenk, Price, Smith & King, LLP; and the Court having previously found in its Order dated October 12, 2022 (Dkt. 51), that Plaintiffs are prevailing parties within the meaning of that statute; and the Court finding that the fees and costs set forth below are reasonable; and all parties having consented and stipulated to the entry of the within order; and for good cause shown,

**IT IS**, on this **23rd** day of **May 2023**, **HEREBY ORDERED** as follows:

1. The State of New Jersey, on behalf of Defendants Matthew J. Platkin, Patrick J. Callahan, Mark P. Tarantino, Joseph L. Rea, and N. Peter Conforti (“State Defendants”)—all being sued solely in their official capacities as State officials, and not as individuals—shall pay to Plaintiffs’ Counsel the amount of \$40,500. This amount represents full payment for any and all fees and costs, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988, that any and all Plaintiffs are entitled to as to any and all State Defendants in this matter.
  - a. Payment of attorney’s fees and costs will be processed by the State of New Jersey and made only after State Defendants’ Counsel receives necessary paperwork for processing, which shall include:
    - i. Completed State of New Jersey W-9(s);

- ii. State of New Jersey Vendor Invoices and/or signed vouchers from Plaintiffs' Counsel;
    - iii. Registration through the New Jersey Treasury to the extent necessary for the Treasury to process payment.
  - b. The State of New Jersey shall make payment of attorney's fees and costs as soon as practicable after the Effective Date of this Order, and only following receipt of the necessary paperwork for processing. Should payment not be made within 90 days following receipt of the necessary paperwork for processing, Counsel for Plaintiffs and State Defendants may seek the assistance of the Court. Payment will be made in full by check to "Hartman & Winnicki, P.C Attorney Trust Account."
2. Defendant Arthur E. Waterman in his official capacity as Chief of Police of the Township of Medford shall pay to Plaintiffs the amount of \$1,500 pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988 within 60 days hereof.
3. Defendant Thomas Bryan shall, in his official capacity, as Chief of Police of the Township of Edison, pay to Plaintiffs' Counsel the amount of \$1,500 pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988 within 60 days hereof.

4. Defendant Robert Brennan shall, in his official capacity as Chief of Police of the Borough of Hopatcong, pay to Plaintiffs the amount of \$1,500 pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988 within 60 days hereof.
5. This Order resolves any and all claims for attorney's fees and costs, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988, against the Defendants in this matter.

We agree to the form and entry of this Order:

HARTMAN & WINNICKI, P.C.  
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

/s/ Daniel L. Schmutter  
By: Daniel L. Schmutter

MATTHEW PLATKIN  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

/s/ Daniel M. Vannella  
By: Daniel M. Vannella  
Assistant Attorney General

PARKER McCAY P.A.  
Attorneys for Defendant,  
Arthur E. Waterman, in his official capacity as  
Chief of Police of the Township of Medford

/s/ John C. Gillespie  
By: John C. Gillespie

RAINONE COUGHLIN MINCHELLO, LLC

Attorneys for Defendant

Thomas Bryan, in his official capacity as

Chief of Police of the Township of Edison Police Department

/s/ Matthew R. Tavares

By: Matthew R. Tavares

SCHENCK, PRICE, SMITH & KING, LLP

Attorneys for Defendant

Robert Brennan, in his official capacity as

Chief of Police of the Borough of Hopatcong

/s/ Valerie A. Vladyka

By: Valerie A. Vladyka

*The Clerk of Court shall close  
the case.*

SO ORDERED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day

of May 2023



United States District Judge